

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a permanent employee, working as a CNC, currently earning around 48 per hour.

I have been nursing now for 32 years and have seen the changes over the years with ever increasing workloads and responsibilities. nurses are already under a great deal of work stress due to increased workloads and expectation of their role and now the government wants them to do this for less money.

If penalty rates were abolished I have 2 adult children still living at home as they can't afford to move out, and now what a good idea to reduce the parent income by cutting penalties - this obviously also assists when paying a mortgage !!!...

I am not currently doing weekends, but the nurses I know that they do work weekends obviously to earn a little more \$ but also it enables them to work less days and spend

more time with their family

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Nursing is a very difficult profession to be in and is now way on parity with other professions who have a similar knowledge base. Nurses are expected to cope with what ever the ward, department/ situation throws at them on a day today basis, which often includes abusive behaviour by the general public who have had to wait for be seen in A&E or be admitted to the ward etc. Nurses are expected to cope with all these demands and they do, so having alittle extra on the pay packet each fortnight from working penalty shifts helps this... The goverment can only see \$\$\$\$\$ to save and in now way do they care about the impact on nurses and ultimately the families they are working for... Wouldn't it be great if helping people who are unwell, in a timely fashion was more improtant than saving money

Submitted by

VICTORIA BUSCH

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